

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1     1.    (Twice Amended) A method for the propagation of and aeroponic growing of  
2           plants comprising:  
3                providing a vessel having  
4                        a foam core, defining an upper surface, a base and a sidewall, said  
5                        foam core providing a first growing medium;  
6                        a waterproof outer coating at least partially covering said foam  
7                        core;  
8                        at least a first cavity in said core, proximal to said base;  
9                        a cap member, larger than the opening of said first cavity,  
10                       positioned between said base and said outer coating, providing a  
11                       closure to said first cavity;  
12                       at least a second cavity in said upper surface;  
13                       a first passageway extending through said foam core  
14                       communicating between said first and second cavities;  
15                       transplanting a living plant having roots in a second growing medium  
16                       ~~into a vessel of polymer foam having at least one~~ said second ~~cavity distal to~~  
17                       ~~said plant, said first and second media sharing a common interface along the~~  
18                       surfaces of said second cavity; and  
19                       applying water to ~~said foam sufficient to~~ saturate said foam and  
20                       concurrently providing water and moist air in said first passageway and into  
21                       said first cavity, whereby roots of said plant extend into and grow within said  
22                       first passageway and throughout said second cavity and then grow into said  
23                       first cavity to a greater ~~extend~~ extent than their growth into said foam.
2.    (Canceled).
3.    (Canceled).

- 1     4.    (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1, the including the step of adding water  
2           to said foam core.
- 1     5.    (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said vessel  
2           further comprises  
3           ~~at least one second cavity in said upper surface, said first passageway~~  
4           ~~extending through said foam core communicating between said first and second~~  
5           ~~cavities;~~  
6           an external flange proximal to said upper surface;  
7           a peripheral trough between said upper surface and said external flange; and  
8           at least one bore passing through said foam core, providing a communication  
9           between said trough and said first cavity whereby the addition of water to said  
10          trough will fill said first cavity at least partially and wet said foam core.
- 1     6.    (Original) A method as set forth in claim 5, wherein said step of applying water  
2           includes the step of  
3           directing water into said second cavity.
- 1     7.    (Original) A method as set forth in claim 5, including the step of adding water  
2           into said trough.
- 1     8.    (Twice Amended) A vessel for the propagation of and aeroponic growing of living  
2           plants comprising in combination:  
3           a foam core, defining an upper surface, a base and a sidewall, said foam core  
4           providing a first growing medium;  
5           a living plant with roots provided in a second growing medium;  
6           a waterproof outer coating at least partially covering said foam core;

7           at least one first cavity in said core, proximal to said base;  
8           a cap member, larger than the opening of said first cavity, positioned  
9           between said base and said outer coating, providing a closure to said first cavity;  
10          and  
11          at least one second cavity in said upper surface for receipt of said second  
12          growing medium, said first and second media sharing a common interface along  
13          the surfaces of said second cavity;  
14          ~~a first passageway extending through said foam core communicating between~~  
15          ~~said first and second cavities;~~  
16          ~~an external flange proximal to said upper surface;~~  
17          ~~a peripheral trough between said upper surface and said external flange; and~~  
18          ~~at least one bore passing through said foam core, providing a communication~~  
19          ~~between said trough and said first cavity such that the addition of water to said~~  
20          ~~trough will fill said first cavity at least partially and wet said foam core; wherein~~  
21          said foam core, said first and second cavities, and said passageway provide a  
22          supply of water and moist air which together facilitate the growth of said plants  
23          roots throughout said cavities and said passageway to a greater extent than their  
24          growth into said foam, when water is applied to said foam core.

1    9.   (Original) A vessel, as set forth in claim 8, wherein said first cavity has a height  
2           of from about one-quarter to one-half the length of said foam core and a width or  
3           from about one-fourth to about three-quarters the width of said foam core.

1    10. (Original) A vessel, as set forth in claim 8, wherein said first cavity has a height  
2           of from about 4 inches (10 cm) to about 12 inches (30.5 cm) and a width of from  
3           about 4 inches (10 cm) to about 12 inches (30.5 cm).

1 11. (Currently Amended) A vessel, as set forth in claim 8, wherein said second cavity  
2 is dimensioned to fit the root ball of a said living plant transplanted therein.

1 12. (Original) A vessel, as set forth in claim 8, wherein said foam core is selected from  
2 the group consisting of hydrophilic polymer foams.

1 13. (Original) A vessel, as set forth in claim 8, wherein said coating is selected from  
2 the group consisting of epoxies, polyurethanes and phenolic resins.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).

Please add new claim 21 as follows:

1 21. (New) A vessel, as set forth in claim 8, further comprising:  
2 an external flange proximal to said upper surface;  
3 a peripheral trough between said upper surface and said external flange;  
4 at least one bore passing through said foam core, providing a communication

- 5            between said trough and said first cavity whereby the addition of water to said
- 6            trough will fill said first cavity at least partially and wet said foam core.